

\*E-Filed 7/19/11\*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JAMES ALAN BUSH,

Plaintiff,

v.

DEAN WINSLOW, et al.,

Defendants.

No. C 09-01022 RS (PR)

**ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS'  
MOTION FOR SUMMARY  
JUDGMENT**

This is a federal civil rights action filed pursuant to 42 U.S. C. § 1983 by a *pro se* state prisoner. Defendants move for summary judgment. Plaintiff has not filed an opposition. For the reasons stated herein, defendants' motion is GRANTED as to all claims against all defendants.

**DISCUSSION**

**I. Standard of Review**

Summary judgment is proper where the pleadings, discovery and affidavits show that there is "no genuine issue as to any material fact and [that] the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c). Material facts are those which may

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1 affect the outcome of the case. *See Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248  
2 (1986). A dispute as to a material fact is genuine if there is sufficient evidence for a  
3 reasonable jury to return a verdict for the nonmoving party. *See id.*

4 The moving party for summary judgment bears the initial burden of identifying those  
5 portions of the pleadings, discovery and affidavits which demonstrate the absence of a  
6 genuine issue of material fact. *See Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986).  
7 Where the moving party will have the burden of proof on an issue at trial, it must  
8 affirmatively demonstrate that no reasonable trier of fact could find other than for the moving  
9 party. On an issue for which the opposing party will have the burden of proof at trial,  
10 however, the moving party need only point out “that there is an absence of evidence to  
11 support the nonmoving party’s case.” *Id.* 325.

12 Once the moving party meets its initial burden, the nonmoving party must go beyond  
13 the pleadings and, by its own affidavits or discovery, “set forth specific facts showing that  
14 there is a genuine issue for trial.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e). The court is only concerned with  
15 disputes over material facts and “factual disputes that are irrelevant or unnecessary will not  
16 be counted.” *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 248. It is not the task of the district court to scour the  
17 record in search of a genuine issue of triable fact. *Keenan v. Allen*, 91 F.3d 1275, 1279 (9th  
18 Cir. 1996). The nonmoving party has the burden of identifying with reasonable particularity  
19 the evidence that precludes summary judgment. *Id.* If the nonmoving party fails to make  
20 this showing, “the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” *Celotex Corp. v.*  
21 *Catrett*, 477 U.S. at 323.

22 A district court may not grant a motion for summary judgment solely because the  
23 opposing party has failed to file an opposition. *See Cristobal v. Siegel*, 26 F.3d 1488, 1494–  
24 95 & n.4 (9th Cir. 1994) (unopposed motion may be granted only after court determines that  
25 there are no material issues of fact). This is so even if the failure to oppose violates a local  
26 rule. *See Martinez v. Stanford*, 323 F.3d 1178, 1182–83 (9th Cir. 2003).

## II. Claims

Plaintiff alleges that defendants Ed Flores, David Sepulveda, and Dean Winslow, employees of Santa Clara County's Department of Correction Main Jail, were deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs. More specifically, he alleges that Flores, as Chief of Correction,<sup>1</sup> and Sepulveda, a corrections officer, failed to ensure that plaintiff was provided with, or continued to receive, constitutionally adequate medical care, as did Winslow, a physician employed by Santa Clara County.

The motion for summary judgment is unopposed. A district court may not grant a motion for summary judgment solely because the opposing party has failed to file an opposition. *Cristobal v. Siegel*, 26 F.3d 1488, 1494–95 & n.4 (9th Cir. 1994) (unopposed motion may be granted only after court determines that there are no material issues of fact). The Court may, however, grant an unopposed motion for summary judgment if the movant's papers are themselves sufficient to support the motion and do not on their face reveal a genuine issue of material fact. *See United States v. Real Property at Incline Village*, 47 F.3d 1511, 1520 (9th Cir. 1995) (local rule cannot mandate automatic entry of judgment for moving party without consideration of whether motion and supporting papers satisfy Fed. R. Civ. P. 56), rev'd on other grounds sub nom. *Degen v. United States*, 517 U.S. 820 (1996); *Henry v. Gill Industries, Inc.*, 983 F.2d 943, 950 (9th Cir. 1993) (same).

The papers in support of the motion for summary judgment are evidence that the defendants provided and did not impede the provision of constitutionally adequate medical care to plaintiff. More specifically, the evidence shows that defendants were aware of plaintiff's medical needs and adequately addressed them with medical care acceptable under the circumstances. *See Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 837 (1994); *Toguchi v. Chung*, 391 F.3d 1051, 1058–60 (9th Cir. 2004). The movants' papers are sufficient to support the motion and do not on their face reveal a genuine issue of material fact. Accordingly,

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<sup>1</sup> The current chief is John Hirokawa, Flores having retired in 2010. (MSJ at 1 n.1.)

1 defendants' motion for summary judgment is GRANTED.

2 **III. Motion for a Stay**

3 Plaintiff's motion for a stay (Docket No. 86) is DENIED. Plaintiff has had more than  
4 ample time to prepare an opposition. Defendants filed the motion for summary judgment on  
5 February 22, 2011. Plaintiff, after being granted two extensions of time, had until June 15,  
6 2011 to file an opposition.


7 Plaintiff alleges that another legal action pending in another court will address issues  
8 raised in the instant matter. Plaintiff, however, failed to move for a stay on such grounds  
9 until now. Plaintiff has had ample time both to prepare an opposition and to move for a stay  
10 in a timely fashion. Accordingly, plaintiff's motion is denied.

11 **CONCLUSION**

12 Defendants' motion for summary judgment is GRANTED in favor of all defendants as  
13 to all claims. The Clerk shall enter judgment in favor of defendants Ed Flores, David  
14 Sepulveda, and Dean Winslow as to all claims, terminate Docket Nos. 51 and 86, and close  
15 the file.

16 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

17 DATED: July 19, 2011

18   
19 RICHARD SEEBORG  
20 United States District Judge  
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